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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



Director, Office of Legislative Liaison OLL 86-0018
7 January 1986

NOTE TO:

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As requested: talking points for
PFIAB session tomorrow on Congressional
relations.

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cc: DDCI
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Congressional Relations - Talking Points

o Most important bottom line: headlines notwithstanding, Congress has provided significant resource increases for the Community and, particularly, CIA, over the last several years.

o Congress has become a major consumer of the intelligence product: we are at an all time high in terms of the breadth and depth of information which committees and individual members are seeking from CIA and other Community agencies.

o Thus, relations with our four Oversight Committees (Intelligence and Appropriations in both House and Senate) are basically positive. The major issues are political (Congress' role in foreign affairs vis-a-vis the Executive) and related procedural reporting. A corollary is concern about leaks and staff access to sensitive information: topics generating much heat and some fact.

o Greatest difficulty concerns, as it always has, covert action that involves paramilitary support of dissident groups. Related, but relatively new areas of difficulty concern anti-terrorist and anti-narcotics activities that involve special action units of the military and any material aid programs that appear to conflict with the overt foreign aid programs of the U.S.

o We are also being pressed by non-oversight committees to come before them and discuss the role of intelligence as it relates to their areas of jurisdiction, such as the Government Operations Committee's interest in the polygraph and the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control's interest in narcotics collection. In general there is a greater awareness in the Congress of the important role intelligence plays in all facets of economics, technology, science, weapons, commerce and international politics.

o The Gramm-Rudman bill must be at or near the top of any list of additional issues in the upcoming Congressional session which will affect the Intelligence Community. We are concerned, also, about the impact of Federal retirement legislation, particularly on the Central Intelligence Agency. And of continuing concern are attempts to limit the use of the polygraph and the need for a workable anti-leak law.

o Improvement in Congressional relations is essentially a function of attitude and education and, particularly, keeping the political dialog where it belongs - with the policymakers.